



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **ICE REMOVES 631 CRIMINAL ALIENS, IMMIGRATION VIOLATORS FROM 6-STATE AREA DURING SEPTEMBER**

CHICAGO—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers here deported 631 criminal aliens and immigration status violators to 29 countries from its six-state area of operations in September.

The ICE Chicago area includes the states of Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri and Kansas.

Of those removed, 297 were aliens with extensive criminal histories, including Valentin Leivan, 44, a Latvian convicted of second-degree murder for killing his wife's ex-husband in 1998. Leivan served six years of his 16-year prison sentence and then was released to ICE custody. He was removed to Latvia Sept. 28 under ICE escort.

An additional 58 were absconders that had previously been ordered deported by a federal immigration judge but decided to hide instead. These aliens had eluded law enforcement until now, and were considered a threat to public safety. The remaining 276 aliens deported were immigration status violators who had either entered the United States illegally, or who had violated the terms of their visits.

ICE Chicago's Kansas City sub-office, which oversees operations in Kansas and Missouri, removed more than half, or 399, of the September removals, making it the largest number of aliens removed in the two-state area during the past 12 months.

"Our primary mission is to locate, detain and remove all aliens that have been ordered deported by federal immigration judges," said Debbie Achim ICE Chicago Detention and Removal Operations field office director. "By removing criminals, absconders and others who threaten public safety, we play a major role in keeping our communities safe."

The September removals are part of a 10-year strategic national initiative focused on locating, apprehending and removing all persons who have been through due process and have been issued a final order of removal.

The aliens originally came from and were deported to the following countries: Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Gabon, Honduras, Hungary, India, Jamaica, Kosovo, Malay, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russia, Senegal, Serbia, Tanzania, Trinidad, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

A primary goal of ICE Detention and Removal Operations is to reduce the number of alien absconders hiding in the United States. An absconder is a foreign national who has been ordered by a federal immigration judge to report for removal, but failed to comply with the order. Since these absconders have already been through immigration proceedings, they are subject to immediate removal from the country once they are apprehended.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.*